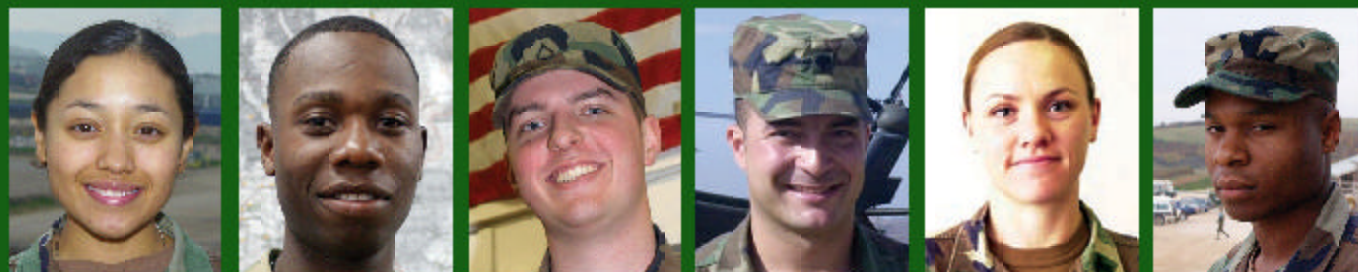
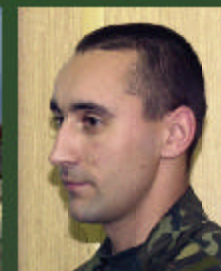
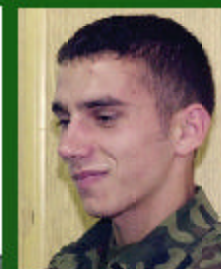


# Guardian East



## FACES of 4A



## BEHIND THE LINES

# What we've found: Every soldier has a story



By Maj. Gordon Cooper

**I**t's been the mission – and the privilege – of my unit, the 302<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, to interact with every unit and as many individual soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East) as possible so we can tell their story.

My military journalists have traveled to every corner of the brigade area of operations, watching MNB(E) soldiers do their jobs: partnership climbs up Big Duke; dismounted peacekeeping patrols through Gnjlane and Vitina; mounted patrols on the border near Camp Rock and on the ABL near Camp Thunder; go-and-see visits in the cities – and more.

The thing that makes a military force great is the quality of its soldiers. Everywhere my unit has gone, with every story we've covered, we've found one thing to be true throughout rotation 4A: the soldiers of MNB(E) are professionals. They take pride in their jobs, and in serving their country – whether that country is the United States, Russia, Greece, Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania or the United King-

dom. For six months (or more in some cases), all these soldiers have committed themselves to the greater good of peacekeeping in Kosovo.

I'm sure it's tempting for those outside the military to see the Army as a sea of cookie-cutter green men marching in lockstep to accomplish one assigned mission. Those of us in the military know that to be far from the truth. Every soldier makes a unique contribution to the mission. Every soldier has, in some small or some large way, made sacrifices to serve his or her country. Every soldier has a story to tell.

There are more than 4,000, sailors, airmen and Marines serving in MNB(E). It is impossible for us to tell you the story of every individual servicemember. But we can give you a sample of some of the unique people who make up this rotation.

What you'll find on the next pages are profiles of some of the individuals who have served their country and the people of Kosovo in recent months. They are the faces of 4A.

*Cooper commands the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.*

## On the cover:

The 24 Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers pictured are profiled throughout this issue. They symbolize the traits and values found in so many members of MNB(E).

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY  
[www.mnbe.hqusaureur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusaureur.army.mil)

## Guardian East

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## About Guardian East

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## FACES OF 4A

**S**pc. Ryan L. Smith, a 20-year-old truck driver in Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, has been in the military for two years. He described his role in Kosovo as "keeping Camp Bondsteel safe and secure, by taking reports from the guard tower and reporting them to the chain of command."

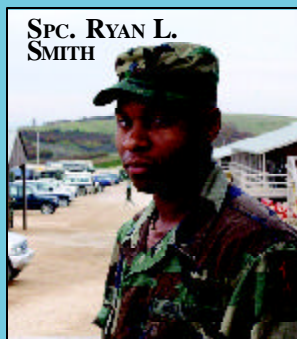
Smith, a native of Santee, S.C., said that he is good at dancing, driving trucks and playing football. He spends his down time in the south-town gym hanging out with his friends.

Smith, who is not married and has no children, said he

joined the Army to see the world. Traveling to Bulgaria and seeing the difference that American soldiers are making in this region is what Smith said he likes most about Kosovo. "Looking at this place (Kosovo) on TV, and then seeing it in person is more interesting," he said.

When Smith writes home, he lets his brother know to appreciate the things that he has. "I've been here where people are struggling, and it made me realize how good we have it at home," he said.

Smith said that he has learned a lot about himself during this deployment. "I learned



that I can do anything that I put my mind to, and that I can make decisions when decisions

have to be made." Smith said that he will tell his replacements to keep their head up — the military is only asking for six months of your time.

The Army value that Smith said is most important is duty. "I am fulfilling my obligation and doing the best that I can," he said. "We have a duty to make this a better place."

When Smith returns to Germany, he plans to hang out with friends, go to the club and get ready for block leave. Once on block leave he will return to the United States to hang out with his brother as he prepares for his next duty station at Fort Bragg, N.C.

**S**pc. Eric C. Martin, 29, from Chicago, is a radio transmission operator in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, and works at Camp Monteith in the Mayor's Office.

Martin has been in the Army for two years and six months. He said his role in MNB(E) is "to keep track of outgoing patrols in HHC, receive and distribute information, and keep track of sensitive material." His advice for his replacements: "Go to college, go to the gym and go to Bulgaria."

Martin talked about what he learned in Kosovo. "I need to get in shape," he said. "I need to stop procrastinating." His most challenging experience during the deployment was, in his words, "the death of my grandfather."

Martin said that being a soldier and peacekeeper means "serving my country when I am needed. We have been sent here to do our job and I am proud to be a part of it." When asked what he did before joining the Army, Martin

said, "I wasted nearly 10 years of my life."

As to why he joined, he said, "Money for college — art school ain't cheap. And discipline — well, one out of two ain't bad."

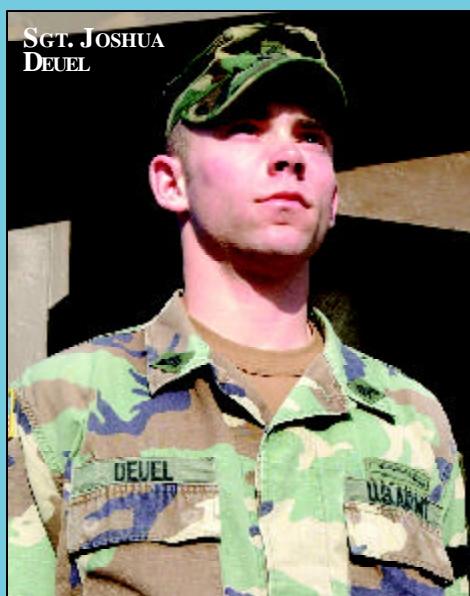
Martin's rater said he "displays uncommon leadership, enthusiasm and initiative. He has well-defined plans and goals and is a self-starter with natural ability and aptitude for technically oriented tasks." In addition, he is "always eager to accept a work assignment."

Martin said the most interesting thing he has seen in Kosovo is "buildings that have been demolished from the war. It's sad."

When asked which freedom he feels most impassioned about, he said, "As an artist, I am most impassioned about the First Amendment (freedom of religion, of speech and of the press)."

After this deployment, Martin said he plans to "travel to London, Italy and Poland and conserve water by consuming beer."

After leaving the Army, Martin has decided to attend the School of Visual Arts in New York City and "become an infamous artist."



**S**gt. Deuel is exceptionally motivated. He is technically and tactically proficient and professional in every aspect of his job. He also sets the standard in every task he is given," Sgt. Joshua Deuel's rater said of him.

Deuel, 21, an infantryman in Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, is stationed at Camp Monteith. He has served for three years and is a team leader who recently earned his Expert Infantryman Badge.

Why did Deuel join the Army? "To travel," he said.

Deuel, from Savannah, N.Y., talked about what he learned. "I never knew how good my life was until I came here," he said. He often wrote home to his girlfriend about "the way people live in Kosovo." Deuel said he plans to, "buy a BMW and go to the Canary Islands" after leaving Kosovo. His advice for his replacements: "Don't get complacent."

Deuel said his role in Kosovo is "to keep the peace so that eventually the U.S. Army can leave" and, as a soldier and peacekeeper "helping people and defending my country when needed."

What did he like about being here? "The money and the ability to help people," he said. What he enjoyed most about his job was "to lead soldiers and train them." Deuel said he also enjoyed the cappuccino bar and watching movies.

He said "earning the EIB and training my soldiers" were his most challenging tasks, and named loyalty as his most important Army value — "because if you're not loyal to your soldiers or fellow NCOs, they might just turn their backs on you when you need them."

Deuel said the freedom he felt most impassioned about fighting for is the freedom "to live the way I want to."

He said he plans on making the Army a career.

## FACES OF 4A

CPL.  
EPHRAIM  
BETHEL

Cpl. Ephraim Bethel, 30, is an administrative assistant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment. He provides personnel support to units stationed at Camp Monteith. Bethel, formerly a deputy sheriff, said he joined the Army because he enjoys challenges.

"(The Army) offers me the opportunity to push myself in any task placed before me," he said.

Bethel, a Roanoke, Va., native, has served in the Army for four years. During his down time, Bethel has worked toward a degree in accounting.

"Making sure that I stayed focused on my individual goals while still performing my regular duties was the most challenging experience I had to overcome while in Kosovo," he said.

Bethel said the deployment in Kosovo has offered him the opportunity to evaluate himself as a soldier and a man. He cited integrity as the most important Army value that soldiers can pos-

ses.

"Without integrity, you will never be able to succeed," he said.

Freedom of speech is what Bethel said he feels most impassioned about defending.

"Freedom of speech allows you the right to voice your opinions and concerns no matter what," he said.

Bethel said that being both a soldier and peacekeeper shows that Americans care about helping others.

On working with multi-national soldiers, Bethel said, "The respect and camaraderie that has been shown has been tremendous."

Bethel said his replacements should take advantage of opportunities offered here, such as education programs, attractive savings programs and the gym.

As his deployment ends, he is making plans to spend time with his family, continue his schooling and prepare for the next mission.

Spc. Oneil A. Wright, 22, from Kineston, Jamaica, is a driver based at Camp Magrath.

Wright has two and a half years in service as an infantryman in 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Wright said his role in Kosovo is "provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo because it takes each and every soldier doing his/her job correctly to make a difference that's why I am here — because I want to make a difference."

Wright advice to his replacements: "Stay alert, pay attention to details and look out for each other." And what in particular was interesting to him? "Everything here is interesting to me," he said. "I mean the culture and the way people here live." What did he like most? "The weather because I came here in the summer. Also, the kids they just love to be around us. Last, but not least — the missions."

On this deployment, Wright has

learned "that I need be to thankful for what I have because there are people out there who have it worse than I do." What is Wright already good at? "Driving a Bradley, track and field, and I enjoy making my friends laugh by giving them some of my hardcore Jamaican lyrics."

Wright was also challenged in vying for the Expert Infantryman Badge. "I tried my best, but I guess it wasn't good enough. I'll just have to try harder next year," he said.

During his time off, Wright said, "I listen to music, watch television and play soccer," and he writes home about "anything that excites me. Mainly my missions, because I want my family to know that I am OK." Wright is married and has a "wonderful 3-year-old."

When back in Germany and on leave, he wants to spend time with his wife by taking her to Paris and driving his car. "I just love to feel the power of my engine," he said. "It's unstoppable."

SPC. ONEIL  
A.  
WRIGHT

Take it one day at a time, and take the opportunity to save some money," Pvt. Jimmy Franks said. The 20-year-old from Nashville, Tenn., is an infantryman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. Franks has served for one year and is stationed at Camp Magrath providing force protection.

Asked why he joined the Army, Franks said, "For the adventure and to do something new." Recently, he earned the Expert Infantryman Badge, which for a private "was a great accomplishment," he said.

Franks said being a soldier and peacekeeper "means that I represent my country to others, and that I have a responsibility to fight for the freedoms of the American people and for struggling nations." When asked which freedom he feels most impassioned about he said, "There's not just one I can pinpoint. I'm passionate about fight-

ing for any freedoms if they are threatened to be taken away." What Army value does Franks believe is the most significant? "Respect — it is the key to good communication and a good working environment," he said.

What did Franks like most about Kosovo? "The fact that it's just a six-month rotation," he said. After the deployment Franks plans to travel around Europe, then go back to the States and see his family and friends.

Before Franks joined the Army, he "went to school and worked at a couple of factories," he said. After his enlistment, he plans to "go to college to study computer technology," he said. "I think I'm pretty good at drawing, using computers and things like that."

What does he do at Camp Magrath after hours? "There's not a lot to do — sleep, play X-Box and PT," Franks said. He also takes time to write home about "whatever is on my mind at the time."

PVT. JIMMY FRANKS





## FACES OF 4A

**SPC. CLARENCE ADAMS**



**S**pc. Clarence Adams, 26, from Richmond, Va., is a combat engineer in Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, at Camp Monteith. He has three and a half years in service and is a team leader. His role is "primarily to be peacekeeper in small cities such as Gnjilane and Cernica," he said. What does he like about being a combat engineer? "I can destroy things," he said.

A natural leader, Adams offered this advice to his replacements: "Toward the end, find that motivation that will take you the extra mile." His opinion on working with multi-national soldiers: "You learn that some-

times what you hear about certain people are not true. I have many British, French and Russians friends now."

Why did Adams join the Army? "To make a better life for my children," he said. When he leaves Kosovo, Adams plans "to relax — make up for the time I missed with my wife and kids." Adams has five children. To help him remember home better, his wife mailed him a mannequin leg with fishnet (stockings) and a high heel.

What freedom does Adams feel most impassioned about? "The freedom of speech," he said. "I feel that every man or woman should give their opinion on different sub-

jects." As a soldier and peacekeeper, he said, "I feel I play an important role in helping the people of Kosovo have a better life." About Kosovo, Adams said he likes "the respect that Americans get from the people of Kosovo."

One of the most interesting and challenging aspects of Kosovo was "conducting an area search to help celebrate the Black Madonna," and seeing the Black Madonna procession.

Before joining the Army, Adams attended college. After his enlistment, he plans to "return to college, get my degree and pursue a career in criminal justice."

**S**pc. Evelyn Ramirez is a 20-year-old supply specialist in Task Force 9th Engineer. She is stationed on Camp Bondsteel, where she describes her duty position as a supply clerk and unit armorer. Ramirez has been in the military for 22 months and calls Medellin, Colombia, home.

During her down time, Ramirez enjoys watching movies and going to events sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Ramirez said she joined the Army to experience something different and to travel. During her stay in Kosovo, Ramirez found the animals and wildlife the most interesting. "While on Falcon III range, in the morning, a herd of

**SPC. EVELYN RAMIREZ**



sheep passed by, 20 minutes later cows passed, and 15 minutes later goats were crossing

our path," she said.

Ramirez has one daughter and writes to her regularly. "I

explain to my daughter why I can't be with her," she said. "I tell her that mommy is in Kosovo so that other kids can have a better life." When Ramirez's replacement arrives in Kosovo, she will advise them to take college classes, get involved in MWR activities and not waste time.

When Ramirez leaves Kosovo, she plans to go to downtown Schweinfurt to buy her favorite chocolates. In addition, she plans to return to Colombia to spend Christmas with her daughter. Ramirez states that the most difficult part of her deployment is not being able to call her daughter every day.

The Army value most significant to Ramirez is loyalty, she said, "because I couldn't handle it to be betrayed by people that I trust."

**S**taff Sgt. Keith D. Stutts, 28, a truck driver in Service Battery, 1 Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. He is stationed at Camp Bondsteel and has been in the military for seven years. Stutts, who is from Mobile, Ala., says that he is good at motivating soldiers to achieve Army standards and excels at almost any sport.

During his down time, Stutts likes to go to the gym, rest and talk to his wife and children on the phone. When Stutts writes home, he tells his wife and kids how much he misses them and what it will be like when they are together.

Stutts, who describes his role in Multi-National Brigade (East) as a battle noncommissioned officer in charge of force protection, says that what he enjoys most about his job is being a subject matter expert for force protection and having people come to him for answers. When Stutts' replacement arrives, he will tell that soldier to stay motivated and be prepared to work long hours.

The Army value that is most important to Stutts is duty. "My duty position played a key role in force protection," Stutts said, "so I did my job to the best of my ability every day."

**STAFF SGT.  
KEITH D. STUTTS**



SPC. ANGELINA OLIVA



Even during times of mental and physical exhaustion, I learned that I can push myself harder," said SPC. Angelina Oliva, an intelligence analyst in Company D, 101st Military Intelligence Battalion.

The 20-year-old from Dallas joined the Army two years ago, right after graduating from high school.

Oliva said she hopes to make the Army a lifelong career and enroll in Green to Gold, a program by which enlisted soldiers can become officers. For Oliva, integrity is the Army value that holds the most significance.

"Without it, we can't build a cohesive team," she said. "(Team cohesion) is the core component of a great army."

Oliva said she has enjoyed interacting with multi-national units in Kosovo.

"I take every opportunity possible to speak with the French and Spanish soldiers since I speak their languages," she said.

Some of the challenges she overcame in Kosovo included managing multiple tasks,

participating in time-intensive missions, studying for her promotion board, attending college classes and maintaining a heightened physical fitness standard.

"Even though I wanted to give up sometimes, I kept going, thanks to the help and support of friends," she said.

Oliva looks forward to a safe return to Germany in November and a promotion in December. To her replacements, Oliva offered this advice: "Stay busy, before you know it, you'll be back home with your loved ones."

As a soldier, Oliva said she is intent on defending the American way of life.

As a peacekeeper, Oliva said she aims to show people how to look past ethnicity and religious preference.

The freedom Oliva feels most impassioned about fighting for is freedom of religion.

"I tremendously enjoy being able to praise the way I want to praise," she said.

SPC. Eddie Torres, a civil affairs specialist in the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, was born and raised in New York City. Torres, 27, has served for seven years. He joined the Army to follow in the footsteps of his family members who also serve in the armed forces. Assisting in the civil affairs mission and helping to improve the quality of living for all people in Kosovo is Torres' mission.

"The people (in Kosovo) seem to appreciate our service sometimes more than people back home," he said. "It is interesting (to see) just how some of the people of Kosovo get by daily with little physical comforts that we're so accustomed to back home."

Torres said freedom of living is the

most important freedom of all.

"To me freedom of living encompasses the freedom of worship and freedom to live according to one's own set of beliefs," he said.

When asked what he likes most about his job, Torres said it's the people.

"I get to interact with the locals," he said. "I'm not stuck behind a desk all day."

He writes to his family and friends about the people he meets.

"I write home about the people, especially the kids, and about how much appreciation they show for the job we're doing here," he said.

Whether it is in the military or civilian sector, Torres said he plans to go into the medical field.

SPC. EDDIE TORRES



SPC. David Van Leer, 21, a military police specialist in Task Force 709th Military Police, has served in the Army for 21 months. In that short time, Van Leer has learned quickly, taken advantage of educational opportunities and demonstrated leadership potential and a sense of enthusiasm for learning new skills, said his leaders.

Van Leer was going to school full time and working parttime in Middletown, N.J., when he decided to join the Army.

"I wanted to gain experience in law enforcement, earn money for college and serve my country," he said.

In Kosovo, Van Leer drives and provides security for a field-grade officer. This deployment has allowed him to work with soldiers from many nations.

"Multi-national soldiers are eager to learn about you and your culture," he said.

"I like working with people from around the world."

From this deployment, Van Leer has learned that "although some things may seem impossible, with the right attitude and leadership, there is no limit as to how far you can go," he

said.

The most challenging experiences in Kosovo involve reacting to unplanned events, Van Leer said.

"There are certain situations where you must react quickly. Your life or the life of someone else may depend on it," he said.

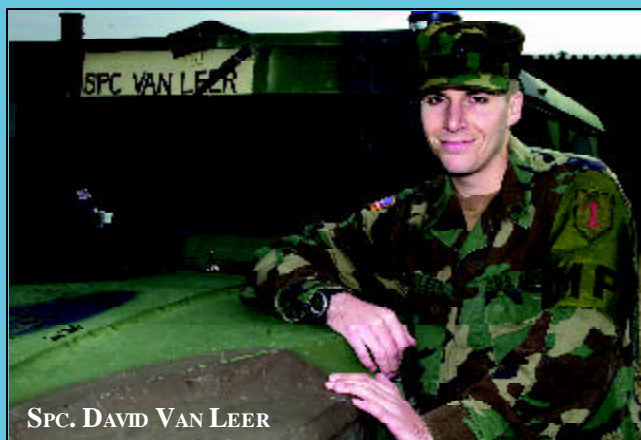
Van Leer has made plans to spend some time with family and friends as well as prepare for any upcoming missions after departing Kosovo. As his deployment comes to an end, he has simple but practical advice for his replacement.

"Avoid complacency," Van Leer said.

The Army value most significant to Van Leer

is personal courage.

"We all have to make decisions on a daily basis," he said. "Being able to make the right decision and sticking by your decision really means a lot to me."



SPC. DAVID VAN LEER



**1**st Lt. Lynn Streich, 26, is an assistant operations and training officer in the 299th Logistics Task Force at Camp Bondsteel.

She is from Laguna Niguel, Calif. and is married to Brad. She has two and a half years in service.

Streich's rater said she "is a disciplined, extremely confident young officer who has assumed many responsibilities at the captain level and has performed them flawlessly." Streich said jokingly that she joined the Army "for the money." What she likes most about her job is "working with lots of people," and after her daily responsibilities Streich likes to teach FAST classes (classes which are designed to help soldiers improve their ASVAB score), hang out with her husband, and draw. She also likes to teach, and it is one of the things that she has

learned about herself on this deployment.

On working with multi-national soldiers Streich said, "It's neat to see how other armies operate." To her, being a peacekeeper is "helping out others in need." What Streich likes most about Kosovo is "being here with Brad and the rest of Charlie Battery, 1-7 Field Artillery." The most interesting thing she has seen in Kosovo is "the top of Mt. Ljuboten," more commonly referred to as "Big Duke."

The best thing that has been mailed to her since she has been here is her "birthday cards and cookies." Streich is good at running and art, and when she leaves Kosovo, she plans to "finally enjoy a weekend off." On leave, Streich plans on spending the holidays in the States with her family and will write home about "anything funny."

**1ST LT. LYNN STREICH**



**Spec. Nash C. Bauman**, 20, is a signal support specialist in Area Support Group Falcon, stationed at Camp Bondsteel. He is originally from Milwaukee, Wis., and has been in the Army for two and a half years. One of the most challenging experiences he had to overcome while in Kosovo was, "visiting a local school and having all the kids begging for stuff," he said.

What he learned about himself on this deployment is "that I am able to take charge



**SPEC. NASH C. BAUMAN**

and accomplish a mission." Of working with multi-national soldiers, he

said, "I like trading things with them."

Bauman likes the scenery and the countryside of Kosovo and thinks the most interesting thing he's seen is "all of the different militaries basically doing the same mission." The freedom that Bauman feels most impassioned about fighting for is "the freedom of speech, because everybody has good ideas," he said. Honor is the Army value that holds the most significance for Bauman because "if we have honor, the rest of the values will follow."

The best thing that was mailed to Bauman since he's been here is "a care package from my unit." What advice does he have for his replacements? "You are not going to learn everything from us; you are going to learn when the situation happens," he said. When Bauman goes on leave, he plans to "visit family and do a lot of traveling."

Before Bauman joined the Army, he "worked odd jobs" and plans on going to college once he leaves the Army.

**Sgt. Bryan K. O'Neal** is a 24-year-old infantryman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He's originally from Wichita, Kansas, and is happily married. O'Neal has served two years in the Army National Guard and three years on active duty. In his own words, his role in MNB(E) is "to provide transportation for the G3 staff and helping my soldiers develop as professionals."

O'Neal said he joined the Army because, "I'm doing my part in ensuring our nation's people and interests are not threatened." What does being a soldier and peacekeeper mean to him? "Peacekeeping is one of the facets of my job as a soldier," he said. "I see myself as being a defender of our nation, our allies, interests and way of life." The most interesting aspect of Kosovo for him is "the Mosque and the Orthodox Church next to each other in Urosevac," he said. I think it

illustrates the stark difference but closeness of the people in this region."

He said his most challenging experience or situation he had to overcome while in Kosovo was "developing an organized approach to handling our missions." What he learned about himself on this deployment: "I took for granted the peace, cleanliness, public service and relative wealth we enjoy as Americans," he said. His advice to his replacements: "Do not take for granted the opportunities that present themselves on this deployment."

O'Neal has worked as an apprentice electrician and as a stock room manager for Sears. He plans on making the Army his career. His plans after Kosovo: "Get my wife situated in Germany and continue my professional growth throughout the next year." The best thing that was mailed to him since he's been here was "a letter from my wife that took the edge off while I was testing for my Expert Infantryman Badge."

**SGT. BRYAN O'NEAL**



## AROUND THE WORLD

# headlines

### World

#### 118 captives die in siege in Moscow

Russian troops crushed a 57-hour hostage siege in Moscow's heart early Oct. 26 ending a terrorist threat meant to overturn President Vladimir V. Putin's Chechnya war strategy. His iron response won acclaim, but the price in hostage casualties was high.

About 750 people were freed from two days' captivity in a local cultural center after the dramatic pre-dawn rescue, a whirlwind of explosions and gunfire from about 250 antiterrorist soldiers and police, along with clouds of disabling gas.

The government said 50 guerrillas were killed — 32 men and 18 women, many gunned down after government forces blew a hole in a wall and stormed the center's theater.

— New York Times

#### France will offer U.N. resolution

In a bold diplomatic challenge to the United States, France announced today that it might formally introduce its own resolution on disarming Iraq at the United Nations Security Council.

In a radio interview, Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin emphasized that France was willing to use the draft resolution formally presented to the Council by the United States on Wednesday as a basis for an agreement among the 15 members.

But if consensus cannot be reached on the American draft, which France and Russia believe gives the United States too much leeway to start a war without further Council approval, then France would offer a competing resolution.

"We are going to try to work with the Americans on the basis of the text they have proposed," Mr. de Villepin said. "If we don't manage that, then we will obviously officially propose our own text."

— New York Times

### United States

#### Hunt for sniper ends in arrest

Police ended a 23-day hunt for a Washington D.C. area serial sniper with a peaceful arrest of John A. Muhammad, a 41-year-old Army veteran, and his 17-year-old companion, John Lee Malvo.

With a loud crack and a blinding light of the SWAT team's disorienting but harmless "flash bang," the agents rushed the blue Chevrolet Caprice parked in a highway rest stop. They smashed out several windows and unlocked the doors. Within seconds, the agents pulled the two dazed occupants from the car at gunpoint and placed them under arrest.

— New York Times

#### Thousands march against war in Iraq

Thousands of protesters marched through Washington's streets, chanting and waving banners against possible military action against Iraq. The rally was one of several held in American and foreign cities Oct. 27.

Fewer people attended than organizers had said they hoped. Participants said the shootings in and around the city in the last three weeks had kept people from planning to visit Washington.

— New York Times

#### Angels take series in seventh game

Darin Erstad caught the fly ball for the final out of Game 7, and the mayhem began.

The Anaheim Angels whooped it up like Little Leaguers, celebrating their first World Series championship with hugs, slaps and unabashed joy.

Behind rookie starter John Lackey and a big hit by Garret Anderson, the Angels pulled it off, beating the Giants 4-1 Sunday night to finally win the crown after 42 years.

— CNN.com

### Military

#### Stryker demo debunks critics

The Army has answered a number of recent critics who have stated that the Stryker Infantry Vehicle doesn't meet the Army's requirement of being deployable by C-130 Hercules aircraft and be ready for combat operations once out of the plane.

The Army and Air Force debunked that claim with a demonstration that showed just that capability during a media event at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Oct. 16.

This was not the first time Strykers traveled via the Hercules. Strykers were also airlifted by C-130s into the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in early August.

— Army News Service

#### 82nd finds largest weapons cache

It took soldiers from Company B and a platoon from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment two days and 35 truckloads to move ammunition found in a cache in the Khowst region of Afghanistan.

The cache, found Oct. 11 in Little Takhtebeg, was the largest found to date.

"This was requested by local authorities who didn't have the power to do it," said Lt. Col. Martin Schweitzer, battalion commander.

— New York Times

#### U.S. won't take action alone

Should President Bush decide military action against Iraq is necessary, the United States would not take such action alone, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Oct. 26.

Speaking to CNN International's Jim Clancy, Rumsfeld called the international coalition fighting terrorism "breathtaking in its breadth and its depth." He noted Bush got 90 nations to cooperate in various ways.

— American Forces Press Service

### KFOR

#### U.S. charges Iraq getting Balkan arms

U.S. officials publicly confronted leaders of Yugoslavia and Bosnia with evidence that a Balkan weapons factory is exporting military equipment to Iraq with the complicity of a leading Yugoslav defense company.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States has "clear evidence" of the transfer and added that the officials of the governments involved "have pledged a full investigation of these allegations."

— Los Angeles Times

#### Montenegro poll brings split closer

Voters in Montenegro have cleared the way for Yugoslavia to pass into history and spurned ultra-nationalists who sought to ditch a laboriously crafted deal to loosen links with Serbia.

In a high turnout of 77 percent, the Coalition for a European Montenegro, led by President Milo Djukanovic, won an absolute majority with 39 of 75 seats in parliament, according to monitors' projections.

— New York Times

#### Ethnic Albanians shot during elections

Three ethnic Albanians in Kosovo were shot dead Oct. 27, one day after the province held peaceful municipal elections.

Local officials said Uke Bytyci, mayor of the town of Suva Reka, and two other men were shot by political opponents while trying to calm a dispute between supporters of his Democratic League of Kosovo and rival ethnic Albanian party.

Ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians remain divided on most issues, including the province's future. Many ethnic Albanians demand independence, while ethnic Serbs insist Kosovo remain part of Yugoslavia.

— VOA News



## FACES OF 4A

Cpl. Gabtzas Evaggelos, a 25-year-old tank crewmember in the Greek 501st Mechanized Battalion, is stationed at Camp Rigas Fereos. He has been in Kosovo for two months and in the Greek Army for 10 months.

Evaggelos said that his role in Multi-National Brigade (East) is to help the other soldiers of KFOR ensure stability and security in Kosovo. He said part of that responsibility is also to provide humanitarian aid to the people here. While patrolling, Evaggelos enjoys meeting people and feels that the people of Kosovo are friendly.

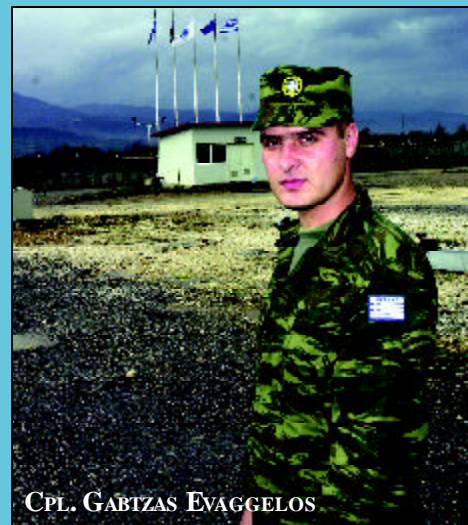
Evaggelos, who is from Larissa, Greece, enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing soccer during his down time. He considers soccer his best sport. Evaggelos states that he joined the army because it is part of his compulsory 14-month obligation as a Greek citizen.

Meeting people from different coun-

tries with different cultures is what Evaggelos said he likes most about being in Kosovo. He said he is impressed with the people of Kosovo and the way they have reorganized since the war. Working with the people of Kosovo has taught Evaggelos that he can help other people who need it.

Evaggelos studied electrical engineering in the United Kingdom before joining the army. When his military duty is over, Evaggelos will return to his hometown and continue to work in the engineering field.

"Work with a passion and help KFOR with the mission" is what Evaggelos will tell his replacement. He will serve in Kosovo until March. However, Evaggelos, like other Greek soldiers, will be allowed to travel back to Greece after two months in Kosovo.



CPL. GABTZAS EVAGGELOS

Maj. Vladimir Sirenko, 30, is a Russian liaison and technical officer in the 13<sup>th</sup> Tactical Group stationed at Camp Bondsteel. He said he likes the responsibilities of his job.

Sirenko was born in Moscow, Russia and has served in the Army for seven years. He initially joined because his grandmother and grandfather were both Russian officers in World War II.

What did Sirenko think about working with multi-national soldiers? "I learned about people's character," he said. "LNOs helped me when I need it, and we must work together because we have one mission." Once when returning to Bondsteel after a mission, he assisted American soldiers who were in a vehicle accident. Plus, Sirenko said he liked "meeting people of different nationalities. Things you don't see in Russia, you can see in Kosovo."

When he returns to Russia, Sirenko said he will go to Moscow, vacation with parents on the Black Sea, go fishing and spend time at his home relaxing. Sirenko said he often talks with his family and friends about their health and the situation in Russia.

During his off time, Vladimir he likes to work out and box at the gym, watch movies and read.

MAJ. VLADIMIR  
SIRENKO

Pvt. Christos Apatidis is a 22-year-old tank crewmember in the Greek 501st Mechanized Battalion. He is stationed at Camp Rigas Fereos and has been in the military for 10 months. Apatidis is fulfilling his 14-month military obligation. He said his role in Kosovo is to help secure the peace and to provide humanitarian services to the people of Kosovo. "That is something that I learned about myself — that I can help people who really need my help," he said.

Apatidis' unit patrols the Greek area of responsibility on a daily basis. He likes his job because it allows him to get off base and interact with the people of Kosovo. Apatidis said that he is not a career military person, but his job helps him to learn more about his military.

Apatidis was born in Thessaloniki, but grew up in Kria Vrissy on the Island of Pella.

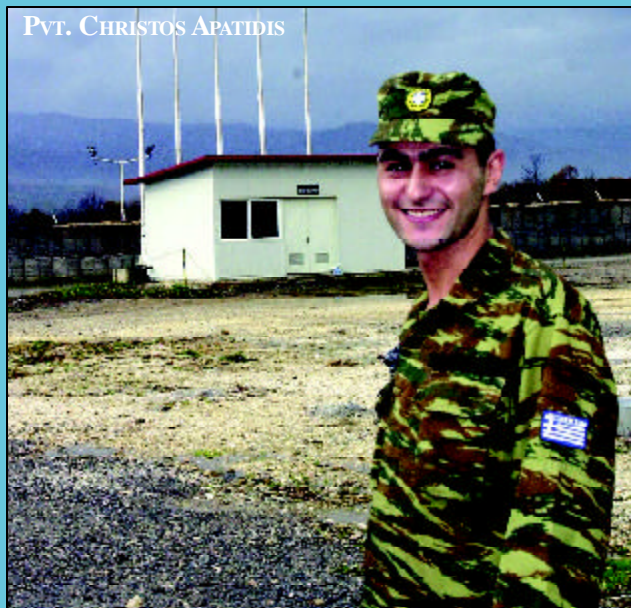
"It is a historical place," said Apatidis, "where Alexander the Great was born." Apatidis said that it is important to know history.

During his down time, Apatidis likes to listen to Greek music. "Before entering the army, I studied music and took voice lessons at the university," he said.

In regard to serving in Kosovo, Apatidis said he likes working with people of different cultures and thinks the natural environment in Kosovo is beautiful. "Nature is not like this in Greece," said Apatidis, who is not married and has no children. "The people (in Kosovo) are very friendly."

When Apatidis redeployes from Kosovo, he plans to travel to Germany for a vacation, where he will attend the baptism of his friend's son. After his 14-month obligation to the army, Apatidis plans to work for the Greek government in the telecommunications field.

PVT. CHRISTOS APATIDIS



## FACES OF 4A

**V**ytautas Kilinskas is a captain in the Lithuanian army. He is stationed at Camp White Eagle. He is 25 years old and works as a liaison officer. Kilinskas, who has been in the military for eight years, described his role in Multi-National Brigade (East) as taking care of problems that make his soldiers' jobs easier. Kilinskas also organizes sporting events to help the soldiers' time go faster.

Kilinskas, who is a native of Vilnius, Lithuania, said that he is good at sports like shooting and running. When he is off duty, Kilinskas likes to read and drive cars. He said that he joined the military because he enjoys the lifestyle and likes being around soldiers.

Kilinskas has only been in Kosovo for one month, but has learned a lot from his position as a liaison, he said. Camp White Eagle is a multi-national camp that houses Polish, Ukrainian and

Lithuanian soldiers.

"It is not easy working on a multi-national base," said Kilinskas. "I will tell my replacement not to be shy and to ask lots of questions."

Though his job is tough, Kilinskas said he likes the fact that he is helping his soldiers to do their jobs. In addition, Kilinskas said that he likes working with multi-national soldiers because he likes to meet people from different countries and to see how they work together.

Kilinskas, who attended military academy after high school, said that discipline is the most important Army value, because soldiers need it to be successful. He believes that his role as a soldier and peacekeeper allows him to help people make better lives for themselves.

When Kilinskas leaves Kosovo, he plans to spend time with his wife, his parents and his friends.

CAPT. VYTAUTAS KILINSKAS



**A**ndrii Sharvi, 24-year-old staff sergeant with the Polish Ukrainian Battalion, is stationed at Camp White Eagle. He described Kiev, Ukraine, his hometown, as the best city in the world. Sharvi referred to himself as a true patriot.

Sharvi has been in the military for seven years and is a squad leader. He said he wants to be a role model for his soldiers. "I'm leading my soldiers on the way to real life," said Sharvi. He believes that one of his strengths is humor — something he uses to motivate his soldiers.

Sharvi joined the army to travel and likes the fact that the military forces him to stay in shape. In fact, Sharvi said that one of the best



times in Kosovo was participating in the brigade sports day at Camp

Bondsteel. In addition to bodybuilding, Sharvi enjoys reading books and writing to his wife during his down time.

Sharvi, who is on his second deployment to Kosovo, said he enjoys working with soldiers from other countries. Sharvi says that he has learned a lot from training with other military forces. He said that Ukrainian soldiers coming to Kosovo should train harder so that their mission will be easier once they get here. Sharvi's most challenging moment came when his armored vehicle was crushed during a convoy.

When Sharvi leaves Kosovo, he and his wife plan to have a son and buy a new car.

**M**ariusz Mtodowiec is a 22-year-old private with the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion, stationed on Camp White Eagle. He is a reconnaissance team member who has been in the Polish military for four years. Mtodowiec said that he joined the Army as part of a 12-month compulsory obligation but decided to stay once his obligation was completed.

He said that he is enjoying his stay in Kosovo and has seen some interesting things. "I enjoy sightseeing and meeting the friendly people," he said, "especially in the Rugova Valley." Mtodowiec said he

writes home about his duties and the things that he sees in Kosovo. He said that he likes the diversity of his job and exchanging experiences with multi-national soldiers. What he doesn't like about his job is hunting for smugglers in the mountains at night.

Mtodowiec said he plans to make the military a career and feels that he is developing into a good leader. He said that during this deployment he has learned to be responsible for himself and his team members. Mtodowiec said the most important Army value is discipline, because soldiers need it.

Mtodowiec plans to spend time with his girlfriend and family when he returns home.

PVT. MARIUSZ MTODOWIEC



During the deployment, Mtodowiec received news that he has a new baby cousin, and he can't wait to see him.

The advice Mtodowiec has for his replacement: "Be patient and accurate in your job."



## A FEW WORDS WITH...

**Lt. Col. Mike Lembke**  
Chaplain, 280th Base Support Battalion

THIS IS THE THIRD AND LAST INSTALLMENT OF A THREE-PART SERIES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING REUNION WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

# Reunion: Plan your work, then work your plan

*"Have faith, have hope, have a little confidence and learn how to cope." — Lt. Col. Mike Lembke*

*"Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden."*

—Lutheran Book of Worship

These quotes are directly from the marriage service that I use. Sometimes things don't go the way we planned and fear, pain, guilt and sadness can overshadow the joy of reunion.

## Think and Be Responsible

Reunion is a time of high emotion. This can be very positive as you get back together with your spouse. However, it may also be a time of heightened tension.

It is very important that you think through the joys and sorrows of your marital relationship prior to your spouse's return.

If your relationship was positive and

nurturing before, it probably is that way now. If there were problems before, they are probably still there. Absence does make the heart grow fonder, but it doesn't solve problems. Contrary to the popular saying, Time does not heal all wounds. Sometimes things get worse during the deployment.

## Developing the Strategies

Here are some things you can do:

1. Before the reunion time, sit down and think about your relationship. Be realistic and try and identify the issues that may need attention upon the return of your spouse.
2. Talk to your spouse before he or she comes home. Let them know about how you feel and what you expect. Then let them talk about their feelings and expectations. This conversation(s) can set the stage for some positive growth.
3. If you are really concerned, talk to a close friend, a counselor, and a chaplain. This certainly needs to be someone you can trust.
4. Make a plan. Don't let circumstances control you. Take charge of the circumstances.

## Feelings Just Are

It's OK to be angry. It's OK to cry or be sad. These are feelings. Feelings just are. Happiness, sadness, fear, anger are all in the normal range of feelings.

How you respond to them is what makes the difference. Knowing that the immediate days following the reunion are the most crucial, make sure you include in your plan:

1. Plenty of time for talk. Share your expectations about the kids, sex, money, and any leave plans.
2. Minimize alcohol consumption. Alcohol is a depressant. When you consume alcohol, your ability to think and be responsible is quickly diminished. Most cases of domestic violence are alcohol-related.
3. If you see that the situation is getting out of hand, have a plan to break the cycle by.
  - a. One or both leave the quarters. But make a plan when you will get back together. Go for a walk around the block.
  - b. Sit down. Anger is most easily escalated in the standing position.
  - c. If you are afraid of violence, have a plan of escape.

## FACES OF 4A

Spc. Jose E. Velez is a 25-year-old avionics mechanic with Task Force 2-1 Aviation, stationed at Camp Bondsteel. He has been in the military for three years. He is married with no children. He worked for a brewing company before joining the military.

"I provide assistance in fixing the aircraft so that the helicopter crew can perform their duties during medical evacuations," said Velez in describing his role in Multi-National Brigade (East). What Velez likes most about his job is troubleshooting and facing different problems each day.

Velez, who is from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, says that he joined the Army to work with aircraft and to serve his country. He says that it has always been his dream to work with aircraft. During his

down time, Velez enjoys weightlifting and playing volleyball.

The freedom that Velez feels strongest about is freedom of speech. "If people have something to say, they should be able to," said Velez, "whether it makes sense or not." Likewise, the Army value he finds most significant is honor. "I hold honor above the rest," said Velez, "because we should feel proud of what we do each day."

When Velez leaves Kosovo, he plans to vacation with his wife and spend time with his family. In addition, his long-term goal is to keep improving his job skills. Velez advises his replacement to "get an X-Box (video game) and exercise your body and mind."

SPC. JOSE E. VELEZ





Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Maj. Sandra Martin, chief nurse of the intermediate care ward, dressed up like a gypsy, while noncommissioned officer in charge of the emergency medical room, Staff Sgt. Ronald Hitchcock, was head and shoulders above with his costume. Hitchcock dressed up as a head. Both soldiers are in Task Force Medical Falcon. They volunteered to spook guests on Oct. 26 at the haunted house and Halloween party hosted by Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Camp Bondsteel.



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Brig. Gen Douglas E. Lute, MNB(E) commander, congratulates Spc. Daniel Pires for reenlisting on Oct. 25. The reenlistment bonus offered to Pires, an infantryman in Co. B, 1-26 Infantry, marked \$2 million given to soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division in bonuses during the deployment to Kosovo.



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Pfc. Jamie Mathis, a petroleum supply specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-1 Aviation, decorates the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center with Halloween streamers during his free time on Oct. 25 at Camp Bondsteel. The MWR center was the site of a Halloween haunted house and costume party.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY  
[www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil)



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